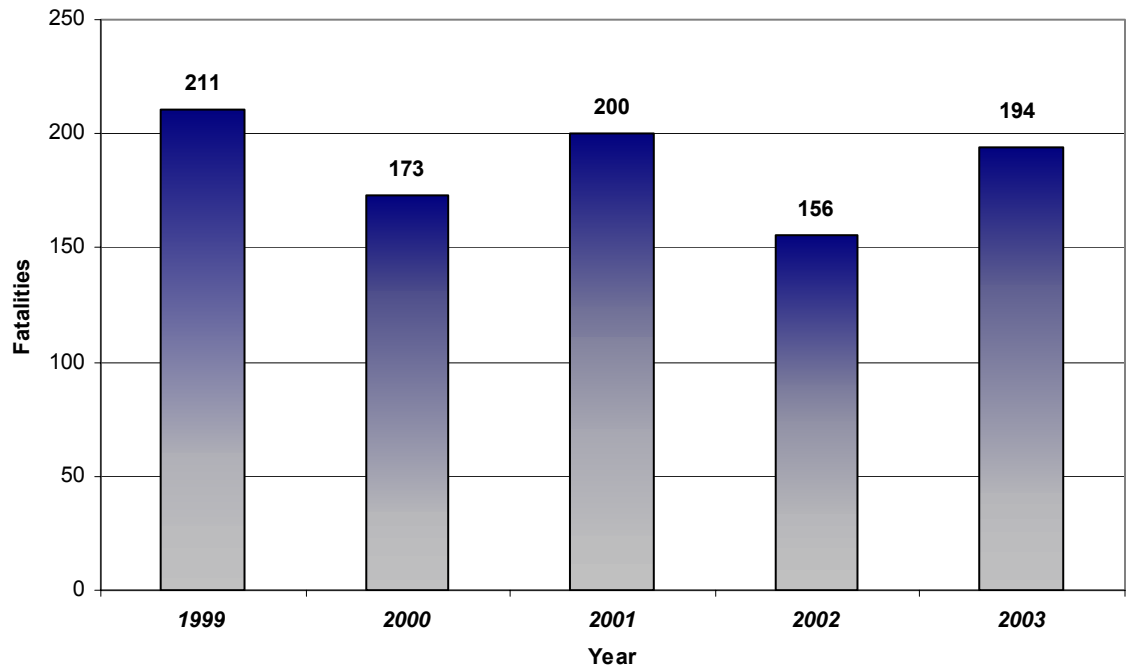


Large Trucks

Background

In 2003, 194 lives were lost on Illinois highways in crashes involving large trucks. Approximately one out of every eight highway deaths involved a large truck, which is defined as a vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 10,000 pounds. These crashes differ from others in that the large trucks typically increase crash severity due to their size and weight. When compared to the overall crash picture, large truck crashes are typically attributed to unit separations, jackknives, cargo losses and shifts, and increases in rear-end collision fatalities, work zone fatalities, multi-vehicle crashes, and on-the-road crashes. Furthermore, it has been shown that a disproportionate number of work zone fatal crashes involve large trucks.

Figure 10. Illinois Large Truck Fatalities



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Internet

Recent Implemented Strategies

- Implemented commercial driver license requirements mandated by the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999.
- Implemented the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN).
- Implemented the Performance Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM).
- Utilized ISP Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) enforcement.
- Innovative use of MCSAP funds (i.e., work zones).

Challenges

- Compliance with federal and state safety regulations.
- Safety compliance of large trucks operated exclusively within Illinois.
- Truck driver seat belt usage.
- Fatigue resulting from unusual work hours.
- Identification of truck driver needs that can help improve safety.
- Noncommercial driver behaviors that contribute to large truck crashes.
- Identification of causal factors through data analysis.
- Coordination between local municipalities, state districts, and federal agencies to address large truck safety issues through engineering, enforcement, educational, and emergency medical service solutions.
- Trucking industry push for higher speed limits, larger and heavier trailers, multiple trailers and access to more state and local routes.
- Delivery of real-time road information such as congested routes and unexpected backups.

Proposed Strategies

- Identify high-crash corridors and initiate appropriate engineering and enforcement interventions.
- Implement other strategies identified in the Illinois' annual MCSAP.
- Add large truck exterior lighting to indicate restraint usage.
- Promote in-cab video monitoring of commercial drivers.
- Train local, ISP, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), and Secretary of State (SOS) police to "cross enforce" safety laws.
- Aggressively identify carriers with recurring unsafe practices.
- Pursue legislation to prevent triple trailers.
- Utilize NCHRP Report 500 - Volume 13: A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Heavy Trucks.
- Pursue use of ITS or use of "detectors" and message boards to communicate congested areas and back up occurrences to truck drivers.
- Investigate all recent implemented strategies for success.